Direct Air Support Center

DASC

SC/SO 1.10

Marine Air - Ground Task Force

Air -DASC-Ground

Overview

- DASC mission
- Mission Essential Task List (METL)
- 9 key personnel that make up a DASC crew
- Crew position responsibilities
- 3 types of air support missions coordinated in the DASC

DASC Mission

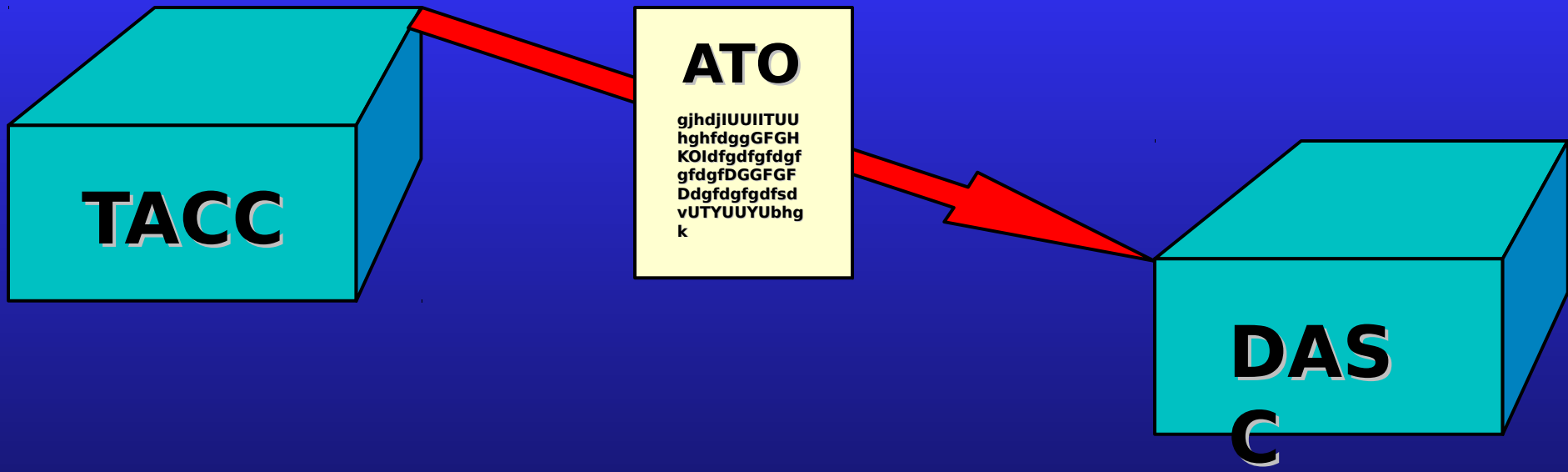
- **Process immediate air requests, integrate aircraft employment with other supporting arms, manage terminal control assets, and procedurally control aircraft operating in its area of responsibility (AOR).**
  - **Mission Essential Task List (METL)**

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Coordinates the execution of preplanned direct air support
  - Air Tasking Order (ATO)

How do we know about assigned aircraft?

- Receive the air tasking order (ATO) from the TACC and coordinate preplanned direct air support



Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Receive, process, and coordinate requests for immediate direct air support
  - Joint Tactical Air Request (JTAR)
    - Close Air Support (CAS)
  - Medical Evacuation (Medevac)
  - Assault Support Request (ASR)
    - Re-supply
    - Trooplift
    - Artillery Lift

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Coordinate the execution of direct air support missions with other supporting arms
  - Artillery
  - Naval Gunfire

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Plan, install, operate and maintain communications to conduct direct air support operations
  - Terrain
  - Intelligence
  - Communications Capability

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- **Plan, install, operate, and maintain an airborne DASC capability to conduct direct air support operations**
  - **KC-130**
  - **UYQ-3A**

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Conduct liaison to facilitate direct air support operations, as necessary
  - Tactical Air Command Center (TACC)
  - Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC)
    - Co-location

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Maintain continuous DASC functions while displacing
  - Shoot and move

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- **Conduct amphibious/expeditionary operations to include the capability to phase control ashore**
  - **From the sea**
  - **Coordinate with Navy**

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Conduct combat operations in an Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) environment
  - Gas masks
  - MOPP gear

Other tasks ….

- Maintain friendly, and enemy ground situation displays
  - Map Board
  - Aircraft Status Boards

Other tasks ….

- Adjust schedules, divert airborne assets, and launch aircraft as required, when delegated authority by the ACE Commander and in coordination with the GCE’s senior FSCC.

Other tasks ….

- Receive and disseminate pertinent tactical info reported by aircraft performing DAS missions.
- Provide info to DAS aircraft, and other MACCS agencies concerning friendly and enemy situation.

Other tasks ….

- Provide aircraft and other air control agencies with threat advisory information

The DASC is an information processing

Key personnel….

- There are nine key personnel that make up the DASC.
  - Senior Air Director (SAD)
  - Crew Chief (CC)
  - Tactical Air Director (TAD)
  - Helicopter Director (HD)
  - Tactical Air Request/Helicopter Request Net Operator (TAR/HR)

Key personnel….

- Tactical Air Command Center Net Operator (TACC)
- Fire Support Coordination Center Net Operator (FSCC)
- Information Systems Operator (ISO)

Key personnel….

- Personnel are assigned positions based on the level of qualification and experience.

Senior Air Director (SAD)

- Commissioned officer.
- The most qualified watchstander.
- Responsible for overall functioning of the DASC crew.
- Ensures all pre-watch duties are complete.

Senior Air Director (SAD)

- During watch, ensures all functions of the DASC are being conducted correctly.
- Ensures all post-watch duties are complete, to include a proper turn over with the oncoming crew.

Tactical Air Director (TAD) Helicopter Director (HD)

- Usually a commissioned officer, however, can be a SNCO or NCO.
- The TAD and HD are responsible for but not limited to:
  - Reviewing the Air Tasking Order (ATO) and preparing the Radio In/Out (RIO) log
  - Briefing crew on F/Wand R/W plan

Tactical Air Director (TAD) Helicopter Director (HD)

- Coordinate with crew on info affecting the F/W and R/W plan
- Use RIO log to manage ATO, ensure that it is carried out
- Check status of late A/C
- Advise SAD on F/W and R/W matters, recommend effective use of A/C
- Ensure status boards are up to date

Tactical Air Director (TAD)
Helicopter Director (HD)

- Follow procedures established in Airspace Control Plan (ACP), Airspace Control Order (ACO), Special Instructions (SPINS), Pilot Controller Handbook (PCH), and DASC SOP
- Ensure proper use of SALT briefing format
- Route forms, including In Flight Reports (IFREP), BDAs, Pilot Reports (PIREPS), Mission Reports (MISREP), and enemy activity reports

Crew Chief (CC)

- Most qualified enlisted watchstander of the crew.
- Ensures enlisted crew is fed, rested, prepared, and advised of watch times prior to pre-watch crew brief.
- Advises, and assist’s the SAD with DASC functions.

Tactical Air Command/Direct Air Support Net Operator (TAC/DAS)

- **Request from TACC:**
  - **Air Defense Warning Condition/Weapons Control status (ADWC/WCS)**
  - **Updated Threat Condition (THREATCON)**
  - **Free Drop Zone (FDZ)**
  - **Changes to ATO/Spins/ACO**

Tactical Air Command/Direct Air Support Net Operator (TAC/DAS)

- Updates to enemy surface to air and A/C threat
- Launch of strip alert A/C as required
- Additional frequencies
- Weather

Tactical Air Command/Direct Air Support Net Operator (TAC/DAS)

- **Passing to TACC:**
  - **JTARs/ASRs/Medevacs**
  - **Friendly and enemy info/intel**
  - **Friendly NSFS and arty**
  - **FSC measure changes**

Tactical Air Command/Direct Air Support Net Operator (TAC/DAS)

- Requested ATO changes from FSCC
- FIRs
- IFREPs/BDAs/PIREPs
- Downed/distressed aircraft reports

Tactical Air Request/Helicopter Request Net Operator (TAR/HR)

- **Functions:**
  - JTAR/ASR/Medevac request forms
  - Route JTAR/ASR/Medevac request forms
  - Pass request number to requesting unit
  - Pass mission data to requesting unit
  - Receive BDAs from completed JTARs

Tactical Air Request/Helicopter Request Net Operator (TAR/HR)

- Receive control points and requested altitudes from supported FACs
- Pass working frequencies to terminal controllers

Fire Support Coordination Center Line/Net Operator (FSCC)

- Receive from FSCC:
  - Updates to friendly and enemy info/intel
  - Updates on fire support coordination measures
  - Updates on NSFS and arty
  - Requested changes to the ATO
  - Contact points for supported FACs

Fire Support Coordination Center Line/Net Operator (FSCC)

- **Pass to FSCC:**
  - **ATO updates/changes from TACC**
  - **Aircraft divert info**
  - **Air Defense Warning Condition/Weapons Control Status (ADWC/WCS)**
  - **IFREPS/BDAs**

Fire Support Coordination Center Line/Net Operator (FSCC)

- **Pass to FSCC:**
  - **Downed/distressed aircraft reports**
  - **JTAR/ASR/Medevac and mission data**

Information Systems Operator (ISO)

- **Responsible for operating current computer based systems to accomplish DASC mission.**

Plotters

- Responsible keeping map, and aircraft status boards up to date.
- Advising HD/TAD when plotted information changes that will effect safety of flight in the DASC’s AOR.

Plotters

- The plotters must maintain the map and A/C status boards with the following:
  - Correct symbology
  - Correct symbol color
  - Correct symbol size
  - Neat and legible

Plotters

- Accurate locations
- ADWC/WCS and THREATCON updated with time updated
- Current inclimate weather conditions

Air Support Missions

- Can be offensive, or logistical
- Three types
  - Preplanned scheduled
  - Preplanned On-call
  - Immediate

Air Support Missions

- **Preplanned**
  - **Missions that anticipated in advance**
  - **Approved by senior FSCC and sent to TACC**
  - **Two types**
    - **Scheduled**
    - **On-Call**

Air Support Missions

- **Preplanned scheduled**
  - **A/C arrive at target or on-station at a prearranged time-on-target (TOT)/time-on-station (TOS)**
  - **Assign frequency to terminal controller**
  - **ATO**

Air Support Missions

- Preplanned on-call
  - Pre-loaded for specific type of target
  - Airborne alert or ground alert
  - Request for launch normally comes through the DASC in the form of a JTAR/ASR/Medevac
  - Can be assigned to specific units
  - ATO

Air Support Missions

- **Immediate**
  - **Unanticipated targets or immediate needs of ground personnel**
  - **JTARs/ASRs/Medevacs**
  - **Divert airborne or ground alert A/C**
  - **Request launch from TACC**

Summarize

- Mission of the DASC
- 9 Key personnel
- Key personnel responsibilities
- 3 types of air support missions

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THE CORPS IS IN YOU
LET IT OUT!
Marines